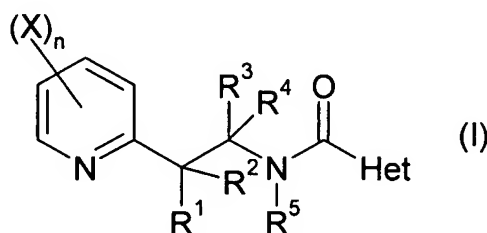


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I):



in which:

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each X is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of
a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl
group, a pentafluoro- λ^6 -sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino
group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a
(hydroxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl group, a C₁-C₈-alkyl, a C₂-C₈-alkenyl, a C₂-C₈-alkynyl, a
C₁-C₈-alkylamino, a di-C₁-C₈-alkylamino, a C₁-C₈-alkoxy, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5
halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen
atoms, a C₂-C₈-alkenyloxy, a C₂-C₈-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a
C₃-C₈-alkynyloxy, a C₃-C₈-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl,

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a C₃-C₈-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C₁-C₈-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₈-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₈-alkyl-C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C₁-C₈-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₈-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulphenyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulphinyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulphonyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkoxyimino, a (C₁-C₆-alkoxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a (C₁-C₆-alkenyloxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a (C₁-C₆-alkynyloxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a (benzyloxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl ~~or~~ and a phenylamino;

R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are ~~the same or different and are~~ independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl group, a C₁-C₈-alkyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₈-alkenyl, a C₂-C₈-alkynyl, a C₁-C₈-alkylamino, a di-C₁-C₈-alkylamino, a

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C₁-C₈-alkoxy, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₈-alkenyloxy, a C₂-C₈-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₈-alkynyloxy, a C₃-C₈-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₈-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C₁-C₈-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₈-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₈-alkyl-C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C₁-C₈-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₈-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulphenyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulphinyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₈-alkylsulphonyl, a C₁-C₈-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl or a phenylamino, a phenyl group, and a phenyl sulphanyl group;

or R¹ and R² may form together a cyclopropyl, a cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

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with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-cyanoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-aminoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl ~~or~~ and a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

Het represents 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocycle with one, two or three heteroatoms which may be the same or different; Het being linked by a carbon atom and being at least substituted in ~~ortho~~ the position immediately adjacent to said carbon atom linkage;

as well as its salts, ~~N-oxydes and N-oxides, metallic and metalloidic complexes.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound according to of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

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3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein at least one of the X ~~substituent~~ substituents is selected from the group consisting of a
halogen atom, a C₁-C₈-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxyimino, a (C₁-C₆-alkoxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl, ~~or~~ and a
C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3-, 5- and/or in 6-position.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein R¹ and R² are ~~chosen, independently of each other, as being~~ independently selected from
the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a
C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a
C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, a
C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a
C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonylamino ~~or~~ and a phenyl group.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein R¹ and R² are ~~chosen, independently of each other, as being~~ independently selected from
the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5
halogen atoms ~~or~~ and a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino.

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7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ R^3 and R^4 are ~~chosen, independently of each other, as being~~ independently selected from
the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, a
 C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonylamino ~~or~~ and a phenyl
group.

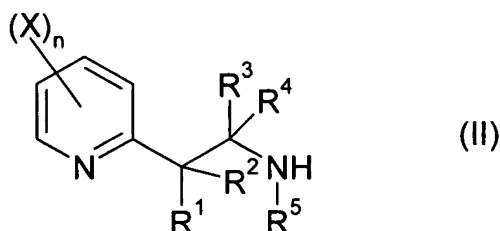
8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ R^3 and R^4 are ~~chosen, independently of each other, as being~~ independently selected from
the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5
halogen atoms ~~or~~ and a phenyl group.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ R^5 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom ~~or~~ and a C_3 - C_7 -cycloalkyl.

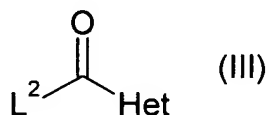
10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ Het is a five membered ring heterocycle.

11. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1;
~~characterised in that~~ ~~wherein~~ Het is a six membered ring heterocycle.

12. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a the compound of ~~general formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises~~ comprising reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of ~~general~~ formula (II) or one of its ~~salt~~ salts:

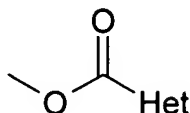


with a carboxylic acid derivative of the ~~general~~ formula (III)



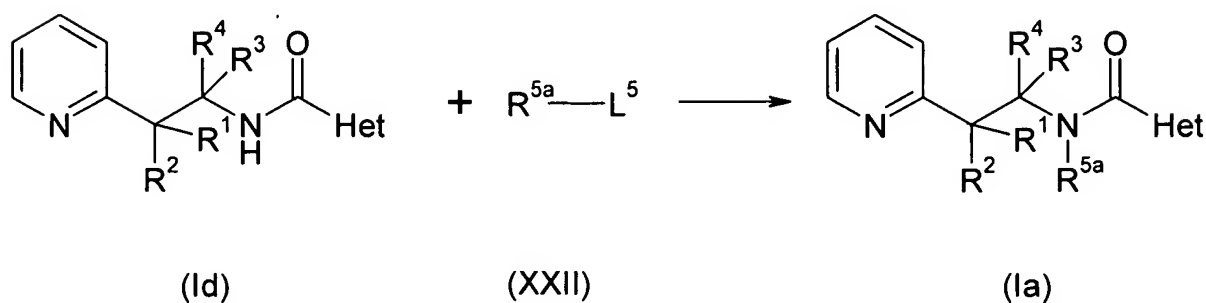
in which:

L² is a leaving group selected from the group consisting of ~~chosen as being~~ a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, -OR⁶, -OCOR⁶, ~~R⁶ being a C₁-C₆ alkyl, a C₁-C₆ haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula~~



where R^6 is a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, in the presence of a catalyst and, if L^2 is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

13. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to of claim 12;
~~characterised in that~~ wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom and ~~that~~ the process is completed by a
further step according to the following reaction scheme:



wherein

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R^{5a} is selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-cyanoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-aminoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl ~~or~~ and a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

L⁵ is a leaving group ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy ~~or~~ and a methylsulfonyloxy; comprising ~~the reaction of~~ reacting a compound of ~~general~~ formula (Id) with a compound of ~~general~~ formula (XXII) to provide a compound of ~~general~~ formula (Ia).

14. (Previously Presented) A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventively or curatively~~ combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, ~~characterised in that~~ comprising applying an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a the composition ~~according to~~ of claim 14 ~~is applied~~ to the plant

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seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.